

Barriers for Community Member Involvement

- Lack of training in the educational system
- Not knowing how they can contribute
- Scheduling difficulties - work hours differ from school hours
- Belief that the lack of performance is not the community's fault, but that parents and teachers are not doing their job
- Not feeling welcomed
- Belief that schools should be organized like a business
- TDY assignments that are sometimes counted in months
- Lack of time - military personnel are only temporary



The Most Common Barriers To Involvement Cited By Parents

- Lack of time - May only be a two year assignment
- Feeling they have nothing to contribute
- Not understanding the system.
- Lack of child care
- Language and cultural differences
- Feeling intimidated
- Lack of transportation
- Scheduling conflicts/difficulties -
Frequently both spouses are active duty
- Not feeling welcome
- Feeling overwhelmed
- Information not shared
- Children in different schools



Key Communicators and the PTA/PTO

Note to the Key Communicator: The PTA is the National Parent/Teacher Association. It is in many of our DoDEA schools. Some of our schools have a PTO, which is a local organization that is not part of the National PTA, but operates much like the PTA. In this section, we have used PTA/PTO where both organizations are used interchangeably. In instances where the PTA is used alone, it is because that section refers only to the National PTA.

The Key Communicators are encouraged to be an active and contributing members of the PTA/PTO. At the very least, the Key Communicators need to attend PTA/PTO meetings. Some School Key Communicators rotate attendance at meetings between the educator and the parent. The Key Communicator serves as a support and a resource for other school committees including the PTA/PTO. If school-home-community partnerships are to be coordinated to make the most of limited resources (financial and volunteer), communication and coordination between all of these committees is essential.

The Key Communicator recognizes, appreciates, and supports the efforts of the PTA/PTO. The National PTA has been the major force behind parental involvement in schools for the past 100 years. The PTA in DoDEA schools is under ECAPTS (European Congress of American Parents, Teachers, and Students), PCAPTS (Pacific Congress of American Parents, Teachers, and Students) and the National PTA. While the Key Communicators implement and evaluate DoDEA SHP initiatives and programs, the Key Communicator should also support any parent and community involvement programs of the PTA/PTO. In some schools, the PTA/PTO and SHP share volunteers in order to maximize their limited resources. In other schools, the PTA/PTO and SHP are separate and distinct committees, while still supporting the efforts of both committees.

The National PTA has developed "National Standard for Parent/Family Involvement Programs." The standards are available through the local school's PTA. The standards are similar to the DoDEA 5 tier SHP

